

Horticulture Northwest

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



• *Lilium washingtonianum*

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University of Washington Arboretum
Seattle, Washington 98195

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Horticulture Northwest

Volume 4 Number 4 Winter 1977

Sallie D. Allen, Editor

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Lady Washington Lily

Wayne Roderick
Garden Supervisor, Tilden Regional Park
Botanic Garden, Oakland, California

Lilium washingtonianum and its varieties is one of the more spectacular lilies of the world. It is found from Mt. Hood south through the Cascades to the Siskiyou and down the Sierra Nevada to Fresno County. This lily is most often found between 3000 and 6000 ft. and mostly in chaparral, but is also common in open coniferous forests. I have never seen *Lilium washingtonianum* in any soils except sandy or gritty material. The fragrance is so strong, you can smell the lilies quite often before you can see them. When they are in bloom, in late June and July, the white, flaring trumpets are very showy sticking up through the brush.

Lilium washingtonianum was discovered by Dr. Albert Kellogg, founder of the California Academy of Sciences, in 1863 and named in honor of Martha Washington as the "Lady Washington lily". He gave the type location as Sierra Nevada mountains, which is quite confusing as we shall soon see. In 1874 John Baker of Kew described the variety *purpureum* and the type from Yosemite! I wish I had known this last June when I was at Kew so I could have looked at the type sheet since we now consider *purpureum* to be a synonym for the variety *purpurascens*, which is found from the northeast corner of Humboldt County and Siskiyou County north through Oregon to Mt. Hood. This variety is known as the Cascade lily. What was the variety of Baker's? How did it get there? Or, as so often happened in the good old days, did the wrong location label get put on to the specimen?

From Mt. Shasta comes the form known as *Lilium washingtonianum* var. *minus*, called the Shasta lily, which differs only by being slightly smaller in all the parts. A few miles away one can find this variety a little larger with colored flowers. Is the variety *minus* caused by the volcanic ash it grows in?

In the Sierra Nevada *Lilium washingtonianum* has white buds which open white. When the flowers start to collapse with age they can turn pink. *L. washingtonianum* var. *minus* has white buds which open white and most often turn pink with age. *L. washingtonianum* var. *purpurascens* most often opens white and soon turns pink. I have seen plants with deep pink buds, the flowers fading to a rich plum color. All varieties normally have minute spotting of purple, though some have heavy amounts and some have next to none.

Earlier I stated that this lily grows in sand or grit, as these are the most usual materials in which they are found. I have also seen them growing on steep slopes where the soil was clay with large amounts of grit and humus between rocks so they still had the perfect drainage they demand. In the far western part of the Siskiyou Mountains I have observed that if the soil is serpentine and there is a "dry" growing lily it will be *Lilium bolanderi* and if the soil is of another type most likely the lily will be the Cascade lily (*L. washingtonianum* var. *purpurascens*).

I have never had good results growing this complex of the Washington Lily and I believe I know what I did wrong. I gave them the sharp drainage but did not give them the summer rains they receive in the wild. The bulbs are normally situated where the grit dries out fast but the roots go deep to where there is always moisture. Add to this, shrubs to give shade and keep the bulbs as cool as possible. I believe I would have success if I had shade on my gritty mound and had moisture at the roots.



Sally Dickman

First Aid

Milton S. Mulloy
Waterbury, Connecticut

A slope heavily shaded by red pines and our native hemlocks, paper birch and beeches - all of ancient vintage - gets little sun except in early spring and, throughout the year, along its southerly and westerly edges. For years this area housed a vigorous understory of black raspberries, bird-sown and self-propagated. Shade made the canes unproductive; from the adjacent garden, it was an unsightly tangle waiting for the lightning of inspiration to strike. The evolution of that jungle into a recognizable, but still wholly informal woodland garden, has occasioned many changes since its inception. During the transformation, emphasis has been increasingly to introduce our native New England plants of the dry forest uplands. The whole process has held many surprises and some satisfactions. (Of failures, No Comment!)

Among the shy woodlanders that we have sought are our two native pipsissewas *Chimaphila maculata* and *C. umbellata* and one or more of the rattlesnake plantains *Goodyera* -- probably *G. tessellata*, this being, in New England, one of the less uncommon of this by no means common genus. Nor are the pipsissewas anywhere common either. We try, therefore, to encourage this trio of wildlings, among others.

The *Goodyera* and *Chimaphila umbellata*, now approaching their fourth year with us, give every sign that they find our offerings acceptable. *C. maculata* is the new-comer whose arrival called for drastic measures if it were to be retained. Its history with us may be of some interest and offer some encouragement to those faced with circumstances similar to ours when the plants arrived.

Briefly, an order in the fall of '75 to a southern nursery brought the response that I could not expect the plants until the following fall. Resigned, I kept their projected site free and, later, forgot the whole matter until early last November. A parcel arrived beautifully gift-wrapped and hand-delivered from across the street. It was in absolutely first-class state - until opened. The plants were alive, but barely. The soil of their erstwhile rootball was dust, a powdery film spread at large throughout the parcel; scraps of sphagnum moss, no doubt originally intended to help keep the plants moist in transit, were now tinder. Altogether, a hopeless, discouraging and thoroughly aggravating mess.

Luckily, I had the wit to re-inspect the outer wrapper with some care before belaboring the nursery for its evident gross incompetence. The postmark on the wrapper showed clearly that the parcel had been in transit for one month, to the day. While this finding did much to restore my faith in the nursery, it did nothing to enhance my opinion of what we euphemistically call our postal service. But what to do with the plants???

Here in Connecticut, November is not the time to put even strong healthy plants into the open ground. Cold-frame treatment for these weakened things could hardly be less rigorous. So the matter resolved itself into a decision

to chuck the mess onto the compost pile or to try to nurse these much-tried plants through in the house - and if so, how and where? Eventually, the final decision: a 36-hour complete immersion in water, then potting up the lot in damp sand and encasing the whole in a clear plastic box, more or less airtight, and then setting it in half-light in the attic, which holds at about 50 degrees F. right through the winter; this to be followed once or twice weekly by brief airings, with water as needed. After some six weeks, response became gradually evident and in early June they came down onto the screened porch, box and all, for gradual hardening off. A month later, with two of the three plants showing tiny terminal buds, I felt that they might safely go into their appointed woodland spot. Today, in early October, the two strong plants show substantial, firm summer's growth, and even the weakling's leaves are of good substance and color. "Winter lovers" *Chimaphila* may be by name, but though *C. umbellata* and the *Goodyera* will need no special winter cover, with the *C. maculata* "patients" I shall take no chances. After the winter settles in, they will get an evergreen-bough blanket for insurance.

If there's a moral to be found in the above, it may lie in a refusal to yield to one's first impulse - quite justified in the circumstances - toward the compost heap. Perhaps there is also some small reward of satisfaction that an expenditure of attention and TLC, entirely out of proportion to the intrinsic worth of the plants, sometimes converts a minus into a plus. But it's too early to crow - if, next spring, any of these three "patients" survives to add its bit to the woodland scene, we shall be pleased and shall regard the "nursing" as having been worthwhile.

Our two eastern *Chimaphila* species have their western counterpart in *C. menziesii**, I understand; and the *goodyeras* have their congeners northward across this broad land. All species are said to be similar, and some transcontinental. In both genera there is variation on the all-green and green-and-white themes. Descriptions of the several species in both genera appear in the standard texts; repetition here is therefore redundant. These are all plants of modest, unassertive character; one would hardly be moved to wild outbursts of ecstasy when finding any of them. Yet when found, one is pleased by their discovery, for they add a measure of interest and substance at any time of the year to an otherwise often dull woodland floor. They thus become welcome additions to the wild garden.

*Editors Note: *Chimaphila umbellata* native to western North America is referable to var. *occidentalis*.

Important Notice

The membership dues in our organization have not changed since its incorporation in 1966. Because of the ever increasing costs suffered through inflation, the Board of Directors of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society voted to increase the annual dues to \$7.50 beginning January 1, 1978.

If you need to renew your membership in the near future, you can take advantage of the \$5.00 rate (3 years for \$15.00) if done before the first of the year. This also applies to Christmas gift memberships.

Species Roses in the Northwest

Edith C. Schurr, Edmonds, Wash.

PART II

INTRODUCED SPECIES

Rosa blanda, the Hudson Bay or Newfoundland rose, is sometimes found, a late arrival and rare in our area, since it is native from Illinois eastwards. It is distinguished by the strange green tinge on the reverse of the pale pink petals near the base, and is further recognizable by usually being without thorns. It is hardy and vigorous, a small plant. There are two hybrids which have escaped from cultivation and can be found growing wild, much like the parent but with more petals and repeat-blooming ability again notable because of the green backs on petals.

Rosa canina, one of the best-known roses in the world, and so strong growing that it has been used, and in fact still is sometimes used, for understock for modern grafted roses. It can be found growing wild, having probably escaped from some garden. A tiny piece of *R. canina* root will grow a new plant. This is the famous and wide-spread dog rose of Europe, described by Pliny in the Soldiers' Manual he wrote for the Roman Legions. He gave directions for making a potion from the roots of the dog rose to cleanse and heal the bites of a rabid dog hence its name. No school texts, even Caesar's Gallic Wars, ever informed me that dog bite was one of the perils to be expected by a Roman Legionnaire; it is interesting news.

Rosa eglanteria, also listed as *Rosa rubiginosa*, is the famous Eglantine, the Sweet Briar of England, the rose of hedges and fields, and beloved by Shakespeare who wrote of it in the favorite quotation, "I know a bank where the wild thyme blows". The small perky flowers, bright pink with white eye around the yellow stamens, are a delight for a long blooming time in early summer, sweetly scented and appearing on straight laterals among the crinkled small leaves. Flower and foliage are fragrant; the foliage noted for its delightful green-apple scent, especially when wet. A shower will send out the fragrance to perfume the neighborhood, and for my own enjoyment, I always pin a sprig of Eglantine on my collar while working. One bush will grow into a small sized tree, well worth the space in any garden. A hedge of Eglantine will grow an impervious barrier, some 10-12 ft. tall (if desired) with the rough bark and many thorns and prickles. The hips are long ovals, bristly and bright red when ripe, viable and ready to grow. Thickets of Eglantine can be found almost anywhere in our area but notably in southwestern Oregon. (Others are naturalized in Arizona and some locales in other southwest states.) Apparently the plants came here as immigrants, arriving with early settlers, coming overland in the covered wagons or with the ships which sailed 'round the Horn to the west coast.

Rosa foetida var. *bicolor*, the justly famous and easily recognized Austrian Copper, is a sport of a species, brought out of China probably in

in the 16th century and naturalized in eastern Europe and in some areas of Western U.S. The five firm petals, of thick substance, are bright orange-red on top and glowing yellow on the reverse, with a boss of golden stamens in the center of the remarkable bloom. Called Eglanter in the famous Redoute paintings of Empress Josphine's garden at Malmaison, in early 1800, Austrian Copper was unfortunately reclassified by some unromantic type and is now classed as *R. foetida*, in an undeserved criticism of the odor of its flowers foetid, like a wild animal smell. In actual fact, it isn't that bad, at its worst, it smells like a pet deer in the sunshine, warmed. I have heard it described too as the odor of a wet Labrador. The ferny foliage is dainty and lovely, the slightly musty smell is diagnostic although the glorious blooms are too spectacular for added proof to be necessary for identification. It is of special interest to find a plant with assorted blooms, some Austrian Copper and some of the canes bearing glowing golden blooms, the reversion to the type.

Rosa harisonii, which I think should be the All-American rose, is not a species but is included here because of its prominence in American history, and because you are apt to find it growing in naturalized vigor just about anywhere, especially west of the Mississippi River. Introduced in New York in 1830, it is not a true species, being a hybrid*. Harison's Yellow is the rose which helped to settle the west, coming in the covered wagon along the Oregon Trail, settling in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona where it still grows, and is the Yellow Rose of Texas, among other things. It is a rose of great vigor and character, with a special fragrance of its own. The semi-double, clear yellow blooms are produced in early summer on a very thorny plant, usually growing some four to five feet tall, in a matted thicket. It can survive in dry and hot climate, but also in cooler damp areas. It spreads by underground stolons. The overland trails are still marked by old tangled thickets of Harison's Yellow and it still marks abandoned homes on deserted ranches, and the remains of buildings left in the ghost towns of gold-mining days.

Rosa palustris, the swamp rose of the eastern states, does not really belong in the Northwest but is sometimes found here. It has probably been introduced from elsewhere and has managed to survive in some more sheltered locations; it is reported as growing happily on Bainbridge Island, for instance. It usually produces five-petalled blooms, although as I mentioned, my one specimen surprised me with half its blooms having six petals. The buds are delightful, pointed and with ferny sepals sticking up above the bloom, opening rather flat, pink as usual, surrounding the golden center, and the hips are red beads, slightly flattened from perfectly round, and the dried sepals hang on.

Rosa setigera, the Prairie rose, is also to be found in our area, either in its leggy, tall-growing form or the short ground-hugging shape adapted to the terrain. It has blooms of light pink much like other species but distinguished by being without scent. Many canes are without thorns too, another peculiarity to aid in identification.

*Between *R. foetida* and *R. pimpinellifolia*, the European Burnet rose. B.O.M.

Rosa virginiana, along with its look-alike *R. carolina*, has also settled, though sparsely, in our area. The two species resemble each other so closely that only a botanist can differentiate between them. Good growers and given to spreading underground and by seed, they develop into heavy thickets, of fragrant-foliaged, light green mounds of thorny canes, to perhaps eight feet or more, covered with rather large pink flowers. They bloom for a long time in early summer, with the foliage pleasantly scented, much like Eglantine, then set red prickly hips, longer than they are wide, dark red and very lively.

Rosa woodsii var. *fendleri* is another wild rose of different identification, a small bush often confused with *R. gymnocarpa* and *R. acicularis* until examined with botanical exactitude. It is a slow-growing thorny bush, also with infrastipular paired thorns, and is hard to distinguish. This is *R. woodsii*, according to Dr. Hitchcock.

(To be continued)

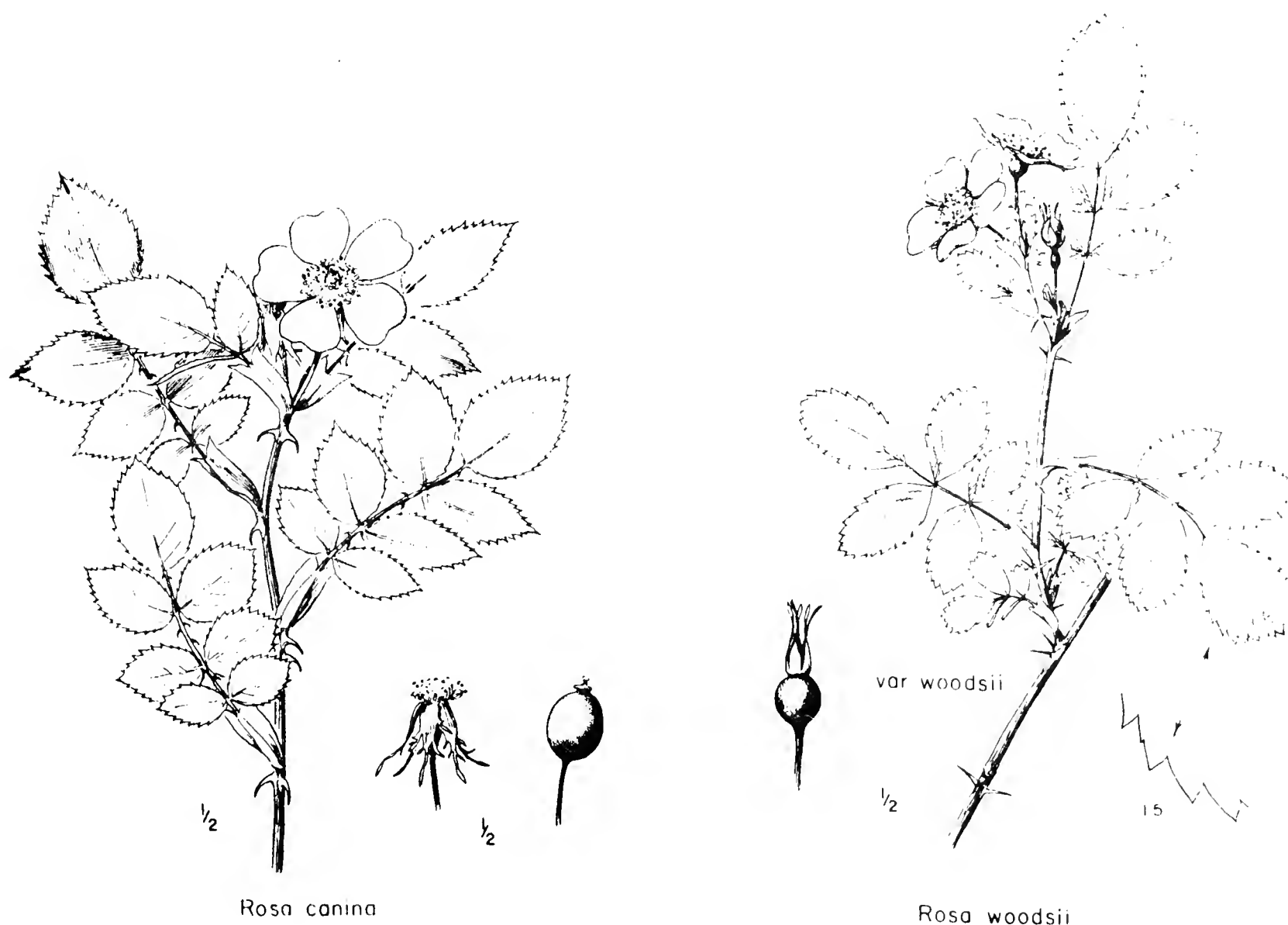


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Actinidia chinensis

Ed Carman

Carman's Nursery, Los Gatos, California

"Kiwi Vine" (*Actinidia chinensis*), a native of the forest margins of the Yangtze Valley of China, was transported to New Zealand where it first fruited in 1910. It was introduced to California in 1930 by the USDA Experimental Station at Chico, where *A. chinensis* was grown from seed and used as an ornamental vine.

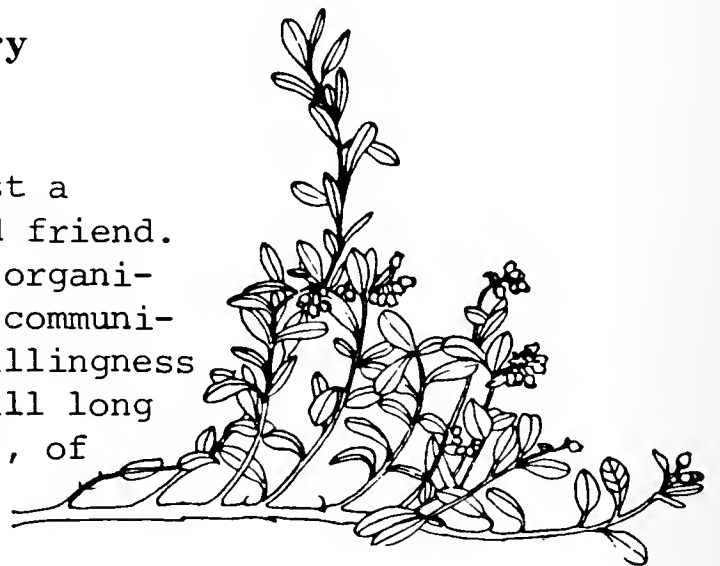
Interest in growing the Kiwi fruit as a commercial crop did not develop until the 1960's in California. At that time many plants were imported from New Zealand where large fruited types had been selected along with pollinators since the Kiwi is essentially dioecious. Now most of the vines for commercial plantings are grown in California.

There are now several hundred plantings from one to fifty acres throughout Central and Southern California. The Kiwi is also being grown in many other states where stone fruits will grow. Mature Kiwi vines will survive temperatures of 18°F, but late frosts may kill the fruit buds in the spring. Good drainage, regular summer watering, plenty of room, sturdy supports and at least half day of sun would be the main requirement for successful Kiwi fruit production in the home garden.

Like a grape, the Kiwi will take two or three years to start bearing. Full bearing is reached at about five to seven years and with proper pruning can be maintained for twenty years. Up to one hundred pounds of fruit can be harvested from a mature plant which with proper humidity and at 32° can be stored for six months. The fruit is most enjoyable eaten fresh or in combination with other fruits in a salad. It can also be frozen, canned or dried. It is an excellent meat tenderizer and very high in Vitamin C. For the best flavor, the Kiwi should be ripened at room temperature until soft to the touch after which it can be chilled before serving.

In Loving Memory

In October The Northwest Ornamental Society lost a founding member, a strong supporter, and a good friend. Martie Trosper will be missed immensely by our organization as well as by many other groups in this community. Her knowledge, her enthusiasm, her ever willingness her spirit, will always be a part of us. We will long remember her love of life, of people, of plants, of gardens, of arboretums. God Bless Her!



All contributions to the Memorial Fund are dedicated exclusively (unless otherwise specified) toward the purchase of books for the University of Washington Arboretum Library

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c/o E.M. Young, President

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WRIGHT, William

507 Harvard E., Apt. 103, Seattle 98102

YOUNG, Mr. & Mrs. Albert S.

17540 32nd N.E., Seattle 98155

FIRST 1978

January 12

Eames Theatre - Pa

PRUNING WIL

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The Program Meeting will

Exhibits and other Horticultur

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PROGRAM MEETING

2nd Thursday)

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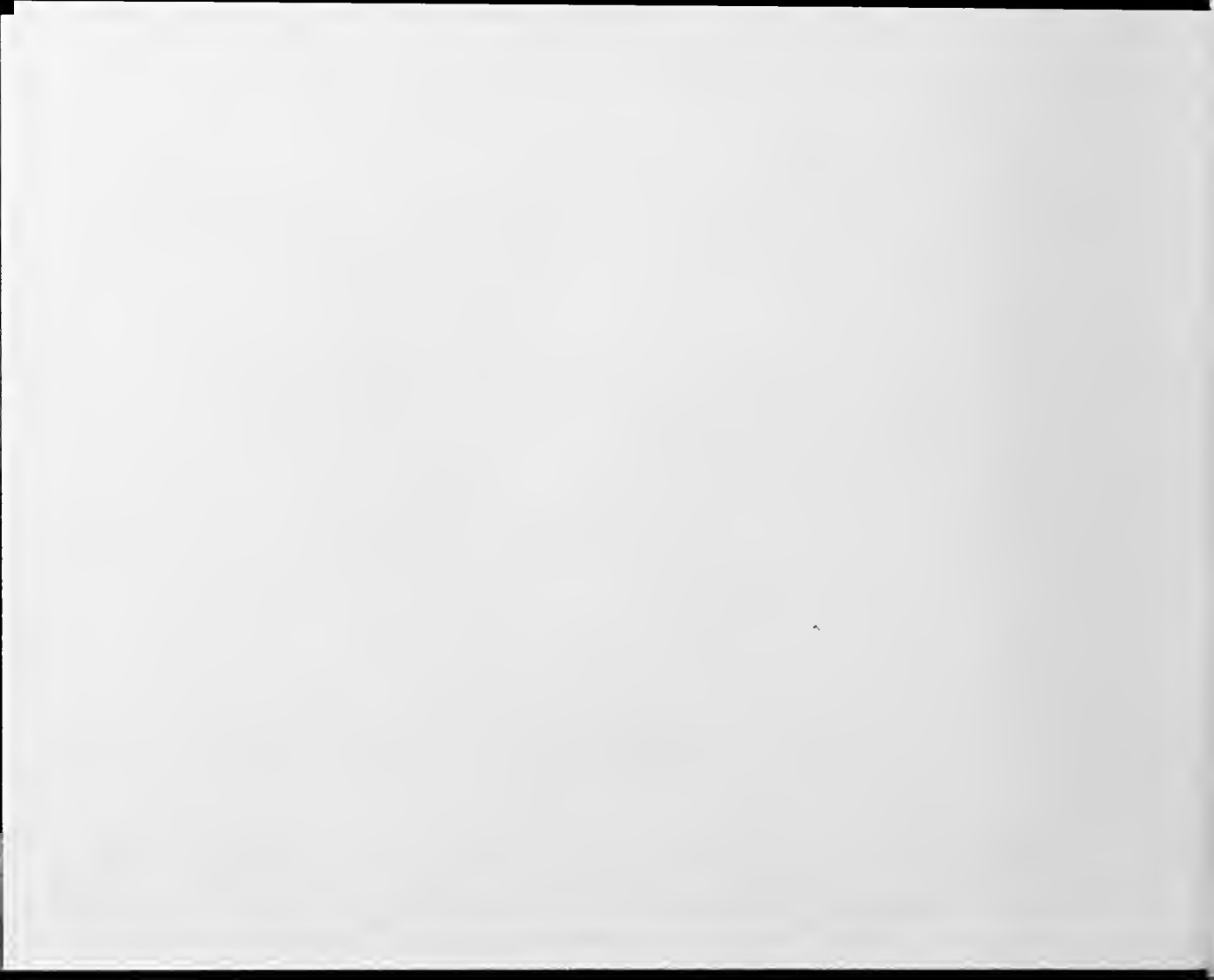
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R & R NURSERY

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YOUNG, Mr. & Mrs. Albert S.

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COMING GARDEN EVENTS

- Jan. 12 Pruning with the Expert
N.O.H.S. Monthly Noon Program - Free
11:30, view displays. Noon - Program, Coffee
Pacific Science Center-Eames Theatre, Seattle.
- Feb. 9 HOUSE PLANT EXPLOSION
N.O.H.S. Monthly Noon Program - Free
11:30, view displays. Noon - Program, Coffee.
Pacific Science Center - Eames Theatre, Seattle.
- Mar. 2 WESTERN ORCHID CONGRESS of the Orchid Digest
3, 4 & 5 Corporation and the Spring Meeting of the
American Orchid Society.
Hosted by: Northwest Orchid Society
Washington Plaza Hotel, Seattle
- Mar. 3 "ORCHID GARDENS" Annual Show and Sale
4 & 5 Sponsored by: Northwest Orchid Society
6-10 Friday Center House
10-10 Saturday Seattle Center
10-6 Sunday Admission Free.
- Mar. 9 THE SHADY GARDEN
N.O.H.S. Monthly Noon Program - Free
11:30, view displays. Noon - Program, Coffee.
Pacific Science Center - Eames Theatre, Seattle.

Plant Notes

Ilex crenata 'Dwarf Pagoda'

This unusual dwarf is one product of the *Ilex* hybridization efforts at Rutgers University under the direction of Dr. Elwin Orton. The seed parent was *I. crenata* 'Mariesii' (*nummularia*) and the male parent was *I. crenata* 'John Nosal', a selected chance *I. crenata* seedling which has foliage similar to *I. c.* 'Mariesii' but grows larger and much more bulky. This cross was made in the early 1960's from which two selections were made and named; a female 'Dwarf Pagoda' has tiny round leaves lying close to very heavy, stiff branches and generally has multiple heavy, stiff main stems going off in unpredictable directions, and a male 'Green Dragon' with slightly larger, more pointed leaves, clustered on equally stiff branches but with more of a tendency for a single central main stem with somewhat more symmetry of side branches. At 10-12 years of age, 'Dwarf Pagoda' will reach six to nine inches in height, sometimes wider than high; each plant taking on a very distinct form and character of its own. At 10-12 years, 'Green Dragon' can reach 18-24 in. high, generally on a crooked single main stem with more columnar form about six to eight inches in width. 'Green Dragon' is not dissimilar to the more dwarf forms of *I. c.* 'Mariesii' found today in the commercial trade, whereas 'Dwarf Pagoda' more nearly fits the description given in older texts of 'Mariesii'. It has been suggested that 'Dwarf Pagoda' might well bring us back to the original dwarf form of 'Mariesii' (whereas this latter name is found today on plants which differ greatly as to their rate of growth, none of which is as slow as seen thus far with 'Dwarf Pagoda'). It is further suggested that this may have come about by propagation over the years from the more vigorous end shoots, gradually resulting in a loss of much of the original dwarf character originally attributed to 'Mariesii'.

Accordingly, in the propagation of either of these two newly named dwarfs, and particularly so the charmer 'Dwarf Pagoda', it is urged that one use only the very short, stiff side spurs as cuttings and stay away from the leading end or stronger side shoots. These side spurs are almost too short to handle but if clipped off neatly and pushed into sand or other media to the tip circle of leaves, they root quite readily.

James Cross

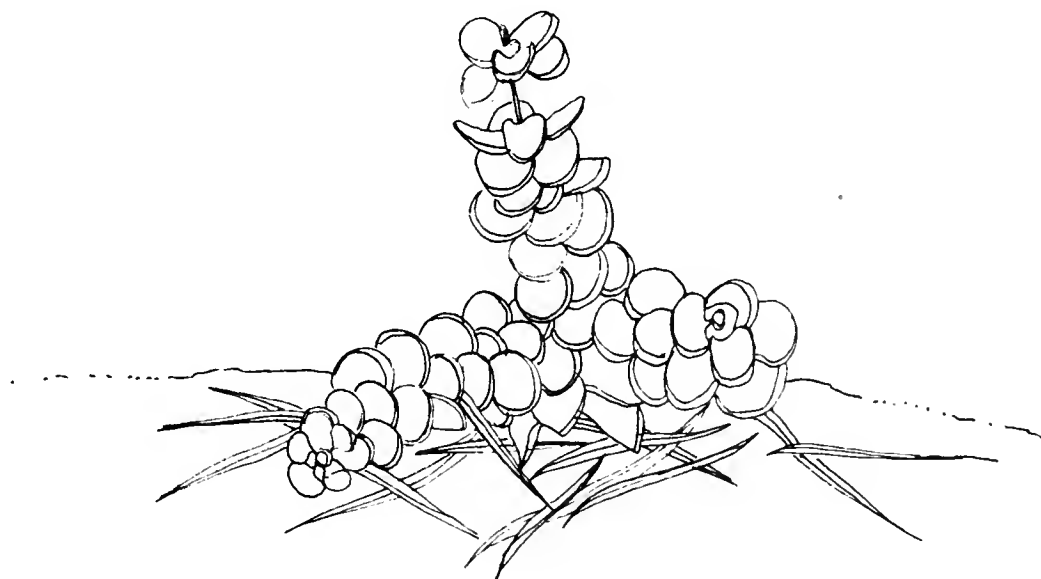


Illustration:
Dorothy Bird

The Berry Botanic Garden

Molly Grothaus

Editor, Quarterly Bulletin of the American Rhododendron Society

The struggle to save the Berry garden from subdivision is continuing unabated. With \$150,000 raised, half of the needed \$300,000, renewed energy is going into the effort to meet the January 31, 1978 deadline.

The true value of Mrs. Berry's plant collection is incalculable. It is a garden of species as they are found in their native habitats throughout the world. Many of the plants were grown from seed collected by plant explorers from the early 1930's on, Forrest, Kingdon-Ward, Rock, Ludlow and Sherriff and others. These men collected in areas that have been closed for the past twenty years and will remain closed during the foreseeable future.

David Leach, author of "Rhododendrons of the World", sent a telegram saying in part "Berry garden contains unique rhododendrons of utmost importance to American horticulture including specimens irreplaceable in world resources for breeding garden hybrids ... Urge preservation as most critical endangered plant collection in the country."

There is an amazing number of distinctive habitats within the six acres of the garden. These range from heavy to open woodland, meadow, a spring and year-round stream and in another area, a bog, in addition to the extensively prepared alpine beds. This range of habitats is the reason that 39 plants on the rare and endangered lists of Oregon, California and the Federal Registry grow here successfully. The garden will be involved in the propagation and study of rare and endangered Northwest plants and will serve as a genetic reservoir for ecosystem restoration. The garden can be used as a sanctuary to protect threatened plant species until the restoration of native habitats, or establishment of protected areas, will permit the reintroduction of the species to the wild. This is being done by botanic gardens in many parts of the world today, but is not yet widely practiced in the United States.

A cooperative program for scientific use of the garden is already being discussed by local and state institutions of higher learning. To date, biology and botany departments of Portland State University, Lewis and Clark College, Reed College, and Oregon State University have expressed an interest in participating in programs of scientific research.

In the spring of 1977, The Friends of the Rae Selling Berry Botanic Garden was formed as a tax exempt, non-profit corporation. The Board of the Friends will determine use and management policy. Ed McRae, who came from the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh to join the staff of the Oregon Bulb Farms in 1961, will be the volunteer Executive Director of the Garden. Jack Poff, who worked for seven years under Mrs. Berry's guidance, will be curator. He is a skilled horticulturist and is the only living person with comprehensive working knowledge of the plant collection.

Contributions (tax deductible) toward the purchase of the garden may be made to Portland State University Foundation, Berry Garden Fund, c/o Dr. Dean Anderson, Box 751, Portland, OR 97207.

Book Reviews

THE ALASKAN MUSHROOM HUNTER'S GUIDE. Ben Guild

Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Anchorage, Alaska
1977. 286 pages, 104 color paintings, 14 black and white
illustrations by Jack VanHoesen. \$13.95

Wild mushroom addicts will enjoy The Alaskan Mushroom Hunter's Guide by Ben Guild whether they live in Alaska or are just planning to visit. As the first book for amateurs devoted exclusively to this area, it fills a need for information both accurately and entertainingly.

Mr. Guild starts out with a chapter explaining just what a mushroom is, how the gills, cap and stem differ from species to species, and how to collect mushrooms for eating. He then gives a valuable discussion of the different types of poisons found in mushrooms.

An excellent key is provided to help readers identify their finds and over one hundred species are thoroughly described and illustrated with an attractive painting. Puffballs and hedgehog, coral, sac, cup and pore fungi are covered as well as the common gilled mushrooms.

An appropriate conclusion is provided by a chapter of recipes for using wild mushrooms in sauces, gravies, soups, omlets and as hors d' oeuvres. After all, for most mushroom hunters the day is incomplete unless it is topped off with a feast.

THE COUNTRY DIARY OF AN EDWARDIAN LADY. Edith Holden

published by Michael Joseph/Webb & Bower,
Great Britain, June, 1977 \$14.95

Attention all Santa Clauses with gardeners on their Christmas lists: one of the most delightful books of this or any century is already in its third printing since it first came out in June. It is a facsimile reproduction of the 1906 diary kept by Edith Holden in a small village in England. Each page is breath-taking, exquisite in fidelity of color and detail accompanied by her personal notes on plants, birds, bees, butterflies. Rather than instilling merely an appreciation of her artistry, the drawings make you yearn to find the meadow in which she chanced upon, for instance, a goldfinch feeding on thistle-seed or a Demoiselle dragon-fly (female) investigating the bud of yellow Iris (*I. pseud-acoris*). The pages are thick, almost of drawing board quality, and should withstand frequent loving scanning. Interspersing the nature notes are appropriately chosen quotations from poetry and prose.

The diary is, of course, in her own manuscript handwriting in either brown or aging ink. The reproduction is unbelievably true. Each drawing looks like an original watercolor painting. The facsimile printing is the work of the Arnoldo Mondadori Company Limited of Italy. The book is on the shelves of local bookstores. I suspect, when you pour over these lovely pages, you will join me in the feeling of deep gratitude that the family of Edith Holden, who has carefully preserved the 70 year old diary, was willing to share such a unique masterpiece with the rest of the gardening world.

Nan Ballard

The Longwood Program

Richard A. Brown
Curator of Blodel Reserve

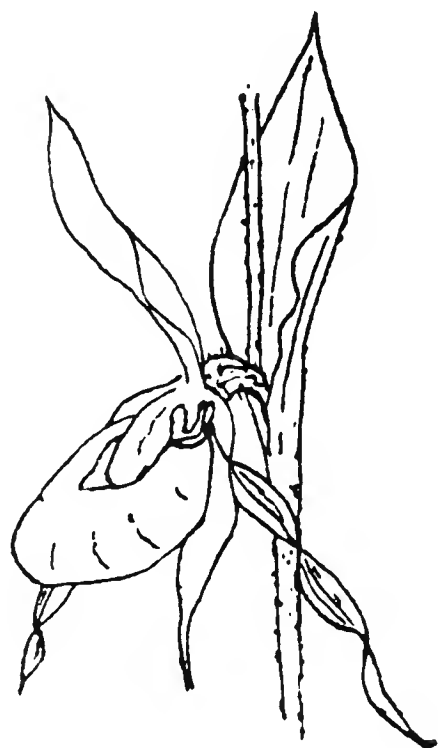
The University of Delaware, in cooperation with Longwood Gardens of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, has established a unique program in Ornamental Horticulture which ultimately leads to a Master of Science degree. The program is designed to provide a comprehensive background for careers in botanical gardens, arboreta, park systems and similar horticultural enterprises.

Combining the unusual resources of Longwood Gardens, the University of Delaware with a program of visiting lecturers and field trips, the program offers broad horticultural experience to its students. As a two-year program, the student is exposed to a variety of maintenance, management and research experiences.

Five fellowships are awarded annually under the Longwood Program. Preference is given to qualified students who have exceptional interest in the aesthetic value of plants in our society and who have a desire to learn the important aspects of managing botanical facilities.

Additional information and application forms may be obtained by writing:

The Coordinator, Longwood Program
College of Agricultural Sciences
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711



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Western Orchid Congress

The 22nd Western Orchid Congress of the Orchid Digest Corporation and the Spring Meeting of the American Orchid Society will be hosted by the Northwest Orchid Society of Seattle, Washington, March 2 - 5, 1978.

If you are an orchid fancier, join us for seminars, workshops, greenhouse tours, and an opportunity to meet orchid experts from around the country. Accompanying the Congress is the superb NWOS orchid show and sale at the Center House of the Seattle Center, March 3 - 5.

Participation in the Congress is open to all; membership in an orchid society is not required. For further information and registration forms, write to Jeanette Brashear, Registrar, 3007 - 91st S.E., Everett, WA 98204.

Report of the Rhododendron Study Group

Marge Baird

We have had several answers to our plea in the Journal for certain North American plants. Helen (Mrs. Thomas) O'Brube offered *Pachystima canbyi* cuttings, and we lost no time in calling on her, clippers in hand. In August, three of us put in well over 300 cuttings, plus a few of her *Pieris floribunda*; so far, all are flourishing.

There must be a few compulsive propagators who'd be willing to grow a flat (even a small one!) of something for our area, i.e., seeds or cuttings of *Gaultheria procumbens* or other ground covers. Please get in touch; we will provide the material, the Species Foundation will provide nursery space as things grow on.

Dorothy Hussey, our landscape architect, has been working hard to get our plan on paper. Just measuring to locate the existing features consumes an unbelievable amount of time. She joined us at a "work party" Friday, Oct. 21st., when we not only planted a surprising number of plants out of the nursery, but also weeded out bracken fern and blackberries. Jack Hirsch had already set out our moosewood (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and redbud (*Cercis canadensis*); with his able assistance, we put in plants of the following rhododendrons: *Rhododendron alabamense*, *R. arborescens*, *R. atlanticum*, *R. austrinum*, *R. canescens*, *R. catawbiense*, *R. oblongifolium*, *R. occidentale*, *R. prunifolium*, *R. serrulatum*, *R. serrulatum* var. *georgianum*, *R. speciosum*, *R. viscosum*, and *R. viscosum* var. *aemulans*. Jack also has *Cornus florida*, *Sassafras albidum*, *Acer circinnatum*, *Amelanchier canadensis*, and *Malus coronaria* large enough to transfer from the nursery. Isn't there someone who'd like to give us three nice *Tsuga canadensis*, the beautiful eastern hemlock?

The fall color in our area is lovely and will be more so as the plants mature. The glowing reds of the scarlet oak, *Franklinia*, *Oxydendrum* and *Rhododendron vaseyi*, the golden yellows of *Hamamelis*, *Halesia*, and redbud (just to name a few) are delight to the eye.

Mycologists, take note: there were areas where the sawdust mulch was covered with *Helvella infula*!

For the "Learn Something New Every Day" Department: Renee Hill showed us how to locate and remove the rhizomes (underground stems) of the bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*). They are long, thick, brown, furry and white-tipped, reminding one of the antlers "in the velvet".

Next, we look forward to putting in rocks to enhance our pond-marsh and stream area, planting and transplanting conifers, planning for our ferns and ground covers, and then, - - - - SPRING!!!!!!

Tidbits

by Ladybug



Old creosoted railroad ties cut into desired lengths are excellent for steps from one level to another in the home garden. *Rubus calycinoides* is an attractive evergreen creeper that can be grown close to creosote without being burned by it. Experiment with plant material that you have in goodly supply, rather than chance the loss of a treasured plant of limited quantity.



Root weevil and slugs too! A very knowledgeable plantsman of our area tells us that he distributes an apple based slug bait by throwing it by the handfull in a sprinkling effect rather than high concentrations in any one place. If this program is carried out every three weeks, both the weevil and slugs can be effectively controlled.



Mailing seed: Mark envelope HAND CANCEL PLEASE. The mechanical cancelling machines utilized today, can reduce long desired seed to worthless powder.



An occasional watering with one half strength liquid fish fertilizer, in late spring is very beneficial for ferns.

Altha Miller



Christmas: Give a gift of membership to those special gardening friends and relatives; a gift that will be appreciated during the entire year. Membership includes monthly program lectures, garden tours, a subscription to the quarterly journal Horticulture Northwest, and beginning in the fall of 1978, a seed exchange.



Plant Combinations: For a ground cover beneath our native dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii*, try *C. canadensis*, the tiny creeping bunchberry dogwood, planted from the trunk of the tree, extending outward to the edge of the overhanging branches. They flower at the same time creating an unforgettable landscape effect.



Fall is the best time for planting: Planting or transplanting during the dormant or semi-dormant state reduces the chance of costly losses. Cool weather and normal precipitation aids in the establishment of newly purchased plants, reducing the need of weeding, feeding and watering. Thus tucked in for the winter, Mother Nature takes over the care of them for you.



Rhododendron racemosum - compact form

There are a number of selected dwarf forms of *Rhododendron racemosum*. Guy Nearing grew one form and from his garden it went to the Knippenberg's of Wayne, N.J. (where it is propagated from seed). In Don and Hazel Smith's garden in central N.J., there are two plants which are from this seedling source. One, in heavy shade at 20-25 years old, is two and one-half feet high and three feet wide, and quite open. The other plant in full sun has reached a compact 12 in. by 12 in. in five to six years. The flowers are about standard for the species but, like most compact forms, most flowers are borne in clusters in the branch ends rather than up and down the stem in each leaf axil (which is characteristic of the more rapidly growing, loose upright forms).

The plants in the 1977 NOHS plant sale are seedlings from the Smith plants. In the original seed flat and upon completion of the first two growth flushes after transplanting, these seedlings appear uniformly compact without exception.



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Please save your PLASTIC POTS, 3" to gallon can size, for Mareen Kruckeberg, phone 546-1281. She will exchange for a free rare plant from MSK Nursery.

Anyone with properties belonging to the NOHS please contact Betty Coe, Properties Chairman 322-0183.

WANTED: Cuttings or small plant: *Rhododendron saxifragoides*, *R. ericoides*, *Gaultheria microphylla*, *Trochocarpa thymifolia*, *Disterigma empetrifolia*. Sallie D. Allen, 18540 26th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98155.

WANTED: Spore of *Bommeria hispida*, *Asplenium adullerenum*, *A. colensoi*, *A. germanicum*, *G. leichenia decarpa* var. *alpina*, *Cheilanthes aurantiaca*. Sue Olsen, 2003 128th SE, Bellevue, WA 98007

The RHODODENDRON STUDY GROUP would like plants, seed or cuttings of *R. camtschaticum*, any species or variety of *Kalmia*, *Pachystima myrsinites* and others. Be part of their exciting project by contributing. Call Marjorie Baird, 454-3862

The ERICACEAE STUDY GROUP is compiling a slide library of Northwest native Ericaceae in the wild and in gardens. Please contribute your extra slides to this collection, which will be available on loan for educational purposes. Send slide to Ginny McElwain, 7343 - 17th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Seed Exchange 1978! Anyone wishing to be a member of the Seed Exchange Committee, please contact Sallie Allen, 363-3189 by January 10th. The first meeting of the Seed Exchange Committee will be held the week following at the Arboretum. You will be notified as to date and time.

Christmas: Give a gift of membership to those special gardening friends and relatives; a gift that will be appreciated during the entire year. Membership includes monthly lectures, garden tours, a subscription to the quarterly journal Horticulture Northwest and beginning in the fall 1978, a seed exchange.

If you know a source of *Cassiope hypnoides* or *Phyllodoce caerulea*, contact James F. Cross, Box 730, Cutchogue, NY 11935.

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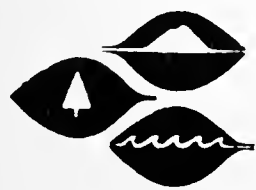
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